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We Are In This Together.

There are countless stories in our modern history that show how the worst of times can bring out the best in people. I have faith the future will record this as just such a time.

In the understandable stress and challenge of the current circumstances, we must reach out to support one another – perhaps the neighbor you've only seen in passing, or even a complete stranger you notice with a special need. We remind ourselves of the reassuring comfort gained from a simple "hello" or "good morning," even when current safeguards require it be delivered through a closed window or from across the street. We reinvigorate our understanding of "community," and we stand together, even when maintaining at least six feet of physical distance between us.

For now, through everything we may encounter, whatever we may have to overcome, we drive on – together. We mirror the resilience and strength of those in our own history who have faced what may have seemed at the time like insurmountable challenges; and we reflect that strength in turn for our posterity, who will look back on this, and us, for the guidance they may need to face the inevitable challenges of the future.

As we move through these difficult times, I assure you the officers and employees of the Los Angeles Police Department will be here for you, and with you, every step of the way. When we come out the other side of this, we will reach down and help each other up, then brush each other off. We will rebuild what we need to, together, as a community; and we will recover, together, as a nation. Because we're Americans, every one of us. That's just the stuff we're made of...and nothing defeats the American spirit. Nothing. Ever.

Be safe...and wash your hands!

Shannon K. Paulson, Captain
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